



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

Contact: Kena Rice

(316) 269-6481

Headquarters

1200 Epic Center
301 N. Main
Wichita, Kansas 67202
(316)269-6481
FAX (316)269-6484

Topeka Office

444 Quincy
Topeka, Kansas 66683

Kansas City Office

500 State Avenue
Suite 360
Kansas City, Kansas
66101

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News releases are available at www.usdoj.gov/usao/ks/

April 22, 2004

GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENTS

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that nine individuals were indicted on April 21, 2004, by a federal grand jury in Topeka, Kansas. Those indicted include:

- ! **Donald J. Boote**, 47, and **Kenneth R. Ford**, 51, both of Wichita, are each charged with three counts of possessing counterfeit currency. In addition, Ford is charged with one count of being a convicted felon in possession of a sawed-off shotgun.

If convicted, each face a maximum of twenty years in federal prison, without parole, on each counterfeiting count. Ford faces a maximum ten year sentence on the felon in possession count. The case was investigated by the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department, the U.S. Secret Service, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Brent Anderson.

- ! **Victor M. Rodriguez**, 41, Wichita, Kansas, currently in custody, and **Priscilla Salazar**, 20, El Paso, Texas, currently in custody, are each charged with one count of possession with the intent to distribute approximately 29 pounds of marijuana on April 10, 2004, in Sedgwick County, Kansas. Rodriguez is also charged with one count of possession with the intent to distribute more than 500 grams (more than 1.1 pounds) of cocaine on April 10, 2004, in Sedgwick County, Kansas.

If convicted, each face a maximum of five years in federal prison, without parole, for possession with the intent to distribute marijuana. If convicted, Rodriguez also faces a minimum of five years and a maximum of forty years for possession with the intent to distribute cocaine. The case was investigated by the Wichita Police Department.

–MORE–

- ! **Eric J. Duegaw**, 25, and **Charity J. Kossin**, 22, both of Wichita and currently in custody, are each charged with one count of conspiracy to pass two forged Western Union money orders at the Quick Cash, Emporia, Kansas; two counts of making forged Western Union money orders which had been altered to show an amount of \$500; one count of possession of forged identification documents including forged and altered driver's licenses and a forged and counterfeit social security card, all on March 24, 2004, in Lyon County, Kansas. Duegaw is also charged with one count of possession of approximately 26.6 grams (approximately one ounce) of marijuana, approximately 8.2 grams (approximately .29 ounce) of cocaine, and approximately 8.5 grams (approximately .30 ounce) of methamphetamine on March 24, 2004, after a prior felony conviction in 1996 for possession with the intent to sell a controlled substance in Sedgwick County, Kansas. Duegaw is also charged with one count of carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking crime on March 24, 2004, and one count of being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm on March 24, 2004.

If convicted, each face a maximum of five years in federal prison, without parole, for conspiracy; a maximum of ten years for each count of making forged money orders; and a maximum of fifteen years for possessing forged identification documents. If convicted, Duegaw also faces a maximum of two years for possession of drugs after a prior felony conviction; a minimum of five years and a maximum of life for carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking crime; and a maximum of ten years for being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm. The case was investigated by the Emporia Police Department and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Randy Hendershot.

- ! **Ryan Sean Wolfe**, 29, Onalaska, Washington, currently in custody, is charged with one count of possession with the intent to distribute approximately 300 pounds of marijuana on April 20, 2004, in Gove County, Kansas.

If convicted, Wolfe faces a minimum of five years and a maximum of forty years in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Kansas Highway Patrol.

- ! **Jason O. Powell**, 23, Topeka, Kansas, currently in custody, is charged with one count of possession with the intent to distribute less than 5 grams (less than .17 ounce) of crack cocaine; one count of possessing a firearm during a drug trafficking crime; and one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm, all on February 8, 2004, in Shawnee County, Kansas.

If convicted, Powell faces a maximum of twenty years in federal prison, without parole, for possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine; a minimum of five years for possessing a firearm during a drug trafficking crime; and a maximum of ten years for being

–MORE–

Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Task Force and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Greg Hough.

! Michael Lee Robinson, 25, Topeka, Kansas, currently in custody, is charged with one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm and one count of being a felon in possession of ammunition, both on January 17, 2004, in Shawnee County, Kansas.

If convicted, Robinson faces a maximum of ten years in federal prison, without parole, on each count. The case was investigated by the Topeka Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Task Force.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Indictments filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.